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‘Bad Driver Law,’ fee changed, provides reimbursement to motorists already fined

Lansing – Legislation waiving a \$300 fee for motorists who fail to show proof of insurance when pulled over has been sent to the House for concurrence, Sen. Tony Stamas, R-Midland, announced today.

“We need to reduce the excessive fines facing drivers for failing to have proof of insurance in their vehicle, even if they have insurance,” Stamas said. “This is an oversight that needed to be corrected.”

Stamas also is encouraged to hear the governor supports this legislation.

“This legislation makes sense and I look forward to her signing the bill into law, as do many motorists,” Stamas said.

As amended, the bill:

- Allows a driver to appear prior to the appearance date on the citation and show proof that they had auto insurance at the time of the violation. If they do this, no Driver Responsibility fees may be levied.
- Provides for reimbursement of drivers already assessed. The legislation allows drivers to appear in court within 60 days and appeal the court’s ruling that resulted in the assessment being charged in the first place. If drivers prove they had insurance, the fees will be refunded by the Secretary of State.

Stamas noted that the legislation does not remove the civil infraction for failure to show proof of insurance. This civil infraction has been on the books for years, long before the Driver Responsibility Act.

Courts may still assess a \$25 fee for tickets issued, even if a driver appears in court with proof of insurance.

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